



The Battlefield Dispatch

Celebrating a Century with the National Park Service

By Chief of Interpretation Kim Coons

2016 marked the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. The goal for the centennial was to connect with and create the next generation of visitors, supporters and advocates. With that goal in mind, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park began planning our centennial events. Over the course of the year, six events occurred in various units within the national military park (Lookout Mountain, Signal Point, Moccasin Bend, Orchard Knob, Chickamauga Battlefield and Sherman Reservation on Missionary Ridge). Combining partnerships, education, and recreation we truly believe we connected with a new and more diverse audience. Our partnerships were with Friends of the Park, Outdoor Chattanooga, the Tennessee State Parks, Friends of Moccasin Bend, the Tennessee

Association of Vintage Base Ball, the 6th Cavalry Museum, the Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association, the Southeast Conservation Corps, the Glass House Collective, and the Sierra Club. Through these partnerships, we provided unique opportunities for visitors to “Find YOUR Park.” In addition to learning the history of our units, we provided canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, mountain biking, hiking, a blues concert, a Civil War baseball game and living history programs. All of these things were done in an effort to educate the visitors that not only can you learn about the history here, but you can get outdoors and recreate in designated areas. Overall over 1,000 visitors attended our centennial events. We are excited for the future and are looking forward to the next century of learning and growing as an agency.



Park Volunteer Rick Swofford plays checkers at the vintage base ball game. (NPS Image)



Left: Visitors to Sherman Reservation witness giant puppets of Generals Cleburne and Sherman. Center: A crowd gathers to listen to blues music during Blues in the Knob inside Orchard Knob Reservation. Right: Supervisory Park ranger John McCutcheon speaks to a group of kayakers about preservation of Moccasin Bend during an interpretive tour on the Tennessee River. (NPS Image)

Superintendent's Sidebar

By Superintendent Brad Bennett

Throughout 2016 we have been celebrating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service with a series of special events at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Each event featured a different area of the park – from Signal Point to Lookout Mountain, from Moccasin Bend to Chickamauga Battlefield, and from Orchard Knob to Missionary Ridge. Each event was supported by a different combination of partners. Each event invited a different set of neighbors to discover the corner of the national park nearest to their home.

Yet all events had the same overall goal: *to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates.* To that end, it was pleasing to see new visitors, especially many young people, experiencing their national park for the first time. They learned about Civil War and American Indian history while enjoying the park by trail, on a bicycle, and in a kayak. Some tried their hand at rock climbing, others learned how baseball was played 150 years ago, and still others witnessed 14-foot tall puppets of Generals Patrick Cleburne and William Sherman!

The park also had an opportunity to raise awareness of an historic event that took place 25 years before the 1863 Battle of Chickamauga: the 1838 forced removal of Cherokee families from their North Georgia homeland along what was then called Crawfish Road – now LaFayette Road – on their way toward Moccasin Bend. Visitors to Chickamauga Battlefield will now see signs marking this 3-mile original route segment of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, a reminder of the many meanings – tragic yet courageous – inherent to this beautiful landscape.

100 Years of Preserving our Nation

By Park Ranger Chris Barr

In the late 19th and early 20th Century, Congress began establishing public lands as “national parks.”

Yellowstone National Park, established in 1872, was the world’s first national park, and by the turn of the century, Congress had set aside a variety of public lands, including Yosemite National Park, Mount Rainier, and even a few cultural sites like the Little Bighorn Battlefield. Among these were the national military parks, including Chickamauga and Chattanooga, which were created as outdoor classrooms for the US Army to study military operations of the previous wars, in order to prepare for future conflict.

In 1906, Congress passed the Antiquities Act, authorizing the president of the United States to create national monuments with the stroke of a pen. By 1916, the United States government managed nearly 50 national parks, monuments, and military parks around the country. Many of these parks were patrolled by the Army, but some had almost no operational infrastructure, and simply existed as public lands set aside as open space. Still others were managed by local supervision with little to no oversight.

Congress took action to manage this growing system. On August 25, 1916, it passed the National Park Service Organic Act, which created the NPS. With the bang of a gavel and the stroke of President Woodrow Wilson’s pen, a new government agency was born that would administer the nation’s public lands. According to the Organic Act, the National Park Service “shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations . . . and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

A generation later, President Franklin Roosevelt signed an executive order transferring the national military parks from the War Department to the National Park Service, including Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Since then, the NPS has carried out the dual mission of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park – to educate the public about the significance of the military campaigns for Chattanooga and the cultural resources found on Moccasin Bend, as well as the agency’s goal to preserve this site for future generations.

When I give tours at Point Park, I often stop at the overlooks and share with visitors photographs taken in the park between 1864 and the present. In these photos, the site never changes – the rocks remain the same, the cannon are in the same positions. But the people change, and the city in the background changes. This is the heart of the National Park Service. We have preserved this place to be an unchanging monument to what happened here in 1863. But the world around this place has evolved, and the American identity has changed greatly since the agency was first established 100 years ago. We look forward to the next 100 years of being a place where Americans can gather to form their own ideas, memories, and experiences.



Park Ranger Hat
(NPS Image)

A Big THANK YOU to our Volunteers

By Park Ranger Chris Barr

No national park site could function without its volunteers, and Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is no exception.

In the 2016 Fiscal Year (October 1 to September 30), 812 volunteers contributed more than 12,000 hours to help make this park one of the best in the Southeast region. These volunteers did a wide variety of jobs around the park, including cleaning up trails, picking up trash, assisting hikers, working the visitor center front desk, organizing the park library, conducting living history programs, and even helping to document every monument in the park for an upcoming digital project!

A major goal of the National Park Service

Centennial is to reach out to the next, generation of park visitors and stewards and volunteering is a great way to lay that foundation. Last year, more than half of all park volunteers were young people under the age of 35. We are excited about the work they did, as these individuals represent the future of the National Park Service.

This year the National Park Service created a challenge coin to recognize volunteers who contributed at least 201.6 hours in 2016. So far this year the park has recognized ten people with this challenge coin: Danny Gaddy, Jane Corn, Ralph Brown, Craig Drew, Joe Bolgiano, Jim and Charlotte Byram, Jon Somsen, Meredith McCann, and Jack Rogers. In the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor

Center near the front desk is a plaque recognizing those individuals who have volunteered at least 1,000 hours in their lifetime. We will soon be adding two more people to that plaque: Don Aleksejus and Moose Poer, both of whom reached that threshold this fall.

Lastly, we'd like to extend a big welcome to Will Wilson. Will, who joins us from Vicksburg National Military Park, will take over as the park's volunteer coordinator in November. We know that with such an outstanding and dedicated group of volunteers, this transition will go smoothly and that Will and our volunteers will continue and expand on the great work that is already happening around the park.

Original Route Trail of Tears Signs Unveiled in Chickamauga Battlefield

By Park Ranger Christopher Young

On Thursday, October 6, 2016, members and staff of the Cherokee Nation, the Trail of Tears Association, and the National Park Service participated in an unveiling ceremony marking a three mile segment for one of the original sections of the Trail of Tears that passed through present-day Chickamauga Battlefield.

In 1838, Cherokee in the area were forcibly removed from their homes to the removal camp at Fort Cumming, located in LaFayette, Georgia. From there, they were taken to Ross's Landing on the Tennessee River via the Crawfish Road (present-day LaFayette Road). As these Cherokee mourned the loss of their homes and land, they had no idea that in just 25 short years, mourning would revisit the fields along the old Crawfish Road when over 120,000 Union and Confederate soldiers clashed during the Battle of Chickamauga in a struggle to re-define freedom for the country.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga, known as the "Gateway to the Deep South." Confederates were victorious at nearby Chickamauga in September. Renewed fighting in Chattanooga that November provided Union troops with victory and control of the city.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Members of the National Park Service, the Trail of Tears Association, and the Cherokee Nation stand next to the newly unveiled Trail of Tears sign in Chickamauga Battlefield.
(NPS Image)



Trail of Tears Original Route Sign
(NPS Image)

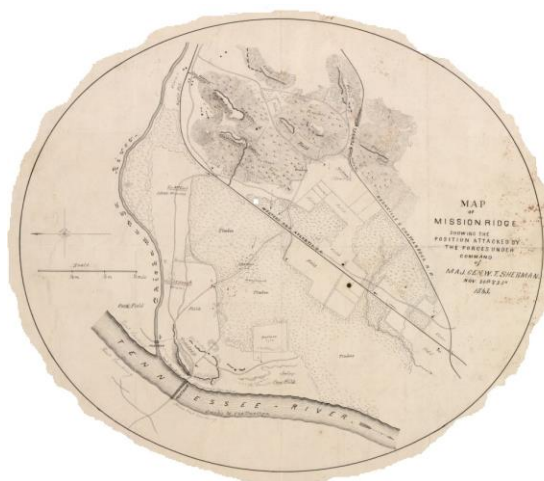
Sherman – Engineer to Skyscraper Man

By Park Historian Jim Ogden

When Union General William T. Sherman rode into Chattanooga on the rainy 20th of November, 1863, accompanying him as his then chief engineer was 31-year-old Captain William Le Baron Jenney.

Born in Massachusetts, Jenney had attended Phillips Academy in Andover before taking advantage of his family's shipping business to sail to the South Pacific, including the Philippines, where he was inspired to study civil engineering. Returning to Massachusetts, he enrolled at Harvard but soon transferred to l'Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures in Paris, then one of the top engineering schools in the world (Gustave Eiffel of later Eiffel Tower fame was a year ahead of him). After graduating in 1856, he conducted engineering work in Central America and for the French army over the next few years.

When the Civil War began, he volunteered his service to the Union cause and was naturally assigned to engineering duty. He was an assistant engineer to Ulysses S. Grant at



Jenney's Missionary Ridge map
(Library of Congress)

Fort Donelson and Shiloh. In the fall of 1862, he was assigned to build the Union fortifications at Memphis and did much to create and organize the Happy Valley contraband camp there. Operations on the Yazoo, at Arkansas Post, and on the Mississippi in late 1862 and early 1863 brought him to service more directly with Sherman. On November 24 and 25, 1863, he participated with Sherman in the latter's abortive efforts against the Confederate right flank along Missionary Ridge, specifically the Tunnel Hill portion, today's Glass Farm neighborhood and Sherman Reservation. A few days after the fighting, Sherman assigned Jenney to map the Tunnel Hill part of the Missionary Ridge Battlefield. That map, "Map of Mission Ridge showing the position attacked by the forces under command of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman, Nov. 24th & 25th 1863" (available online from the Library of Congress at <https://www.loc.gov/item/200663627/0/>), is one of the most important sources for understanding that part of the battlefield.

Serving in the United States Army until 1866, Jenney resigned as a brevet major and moved to Chicago, where he entered the architectural design business. Although underappreciated today, his early work in community and park planning and street design is perhaps some of his most lasting. The

need to rebuild Chicago after the fire of 1871 allowed Jenney to not only apply structural concepts he had learned in France a decade and a half earlier but to also make innovations of his own. Those innovations and the increasing availability of structural steel allowed Jenney to design and build in 1884-1885 what is regarded as the first skyscraper, the ten story Home Insurance Building formerly in the northeast corner of the Windy City's LaSalle and Adams streets. Jenney's skeletal metal frame obviated the need for load-bearing exterior walls and meant building height could be greater. Several of Jenney's then wonders survive, including the 14 story New York Life Insurance building at LaSalle and Monroe streets that is now a hotel.

Despite his success as an architect, Jenney did not forget his Civil War service. He delivered papers on his wartime experiences at meetings of the Illinois Commander of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and was the designer of the impressive and inspiring Illinois Monument at Vicksburg National Military Park. William Le Baron Jenney, engineer and architect, and recorder of a key part of the Missionary Ridge Battlefield, died in California in 1907; his cremated remains were scattered on his wife's grave in Chicago's Graceland Cemetery.

The Battlefield Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

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